



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-
2003
- Success Stories-
2004
- Success Stories-
2005

- Find a Service Center

West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

November 2004



Late October colorful sumac at the Marks family farm in Gilmer County. Photo by Michael Marks.

Click on photos to enlarge.

In this Issue:

- Message from State Conservationist (coming soon)
- [From the Field](#)
- [2005 Conservation Programs Open Through NRCS](#)
- [Knapps Creek Watershed Project 24](#)
- [Bermudagrass Scores Touchdown](#)
- [Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the West Virginia CSP watersheds](#)
- [2004 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference](#)
- [Jim Piper Retires](#)
- [Kimball African American WWI Memorial](#)
- [Flood Structures Keep Homes Dry](#)
- [Bits and Pieces](#)
- [Photo Editor Tip](#)
- [Personnel News](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Message from State Conservationist

By Lillian V. Woods

(coming soon)

From the Field



An assortment of activities from around West Virginia.

...[More Info](#)

2005 Conservation Programs Open Through NRCS

Farmers can get an early start on conservation planning for next year's farming operations.

...[More Info](#)

Knapps Creek Watershed Project 24



Knapps Creek has had long term channel stability and stream bank erosion problems. The NRCS, along with several partners, recently completed the first demonstration phase of the first stream restoration project of its kind in West Virginia. ...[More Info](#)

Bermudagrass Scores Touchdown



The Chapmanville High School football field, located in Logan County, was covered by dead or dying sod. Numerous bare spots riddled the playing field. It was not the green, lush turf that the school or community wanted. Thanks to the efforts of school personnel, the coaching staff, the athletic association and the NRCS, the field was improved.
[...More Info](#)

[2005 West Virginia CSP Watersheds](#)



On Nov. 1, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced efforts to enhance the quality of the Ohio River Basin by naming the 2005 watersheds for Ohio and West Virginia that are eligible for the Conservation Security Program (CSP).
[...More Info](#)

[West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference](#)



The theme of the 2004 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference was *West Virginia Waters "Natures Gift."* The conference included a series of workshops relating to water. "The watershed protection program is one of those silent points of excellence in conservation," said Bruce Knight, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who was the event's opening speaker.
[...More Info](#)

[Jim Piper Retires](#)



Jim Piper recently retired after over 33 years of service. From December 1999 to October 2004 he was the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and the Farm Bill in the West Virginia State Office in Morgantown.
[...More Info](#)

[Kimball African American WWI Memorial](#)



The first memorial to honor these soldiers was completed and dedicated in 1928 in Kimball. The restored memorial will provide the community with a gathering place and is expected to bring tourism to the now economically depressed area.
[...More Info](#)

Flood Structures Keep Homes Dry



The widespread flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan could be one of the most expensive disasters in West Virginia's history. Governor Wise took a helicopter tour of flood-ravaged areas on September 21 and said the damage is as bad as any he's ever seen—and in some cases, worse. It could have been worse.

[...More Info](#)

Bits and Pieces

Miscellaneous information

[...More Info](#)

Digital Photo Tip

Microsoft Photo Editor is a basic imaged editing program that is part of Office Tools. MS Photo Editor is easy to use and is handy for basic photo and image manipulation tasks such as resizing and lowering the resolution of digital photos.

[...More Info](#)

Personnel News

Changes, promotions, students made permanent, new employees, reinstatements, reassignments, transfers, resignations, retirements and awards.

[...More Info](#)

Upcoming Events

[WV Conservation Partnership's Monthly Report](#)

The latest news sent out by the WV Conservation Agency.

To submit news items for the February *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to [Carol Lagodich](#)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office
75 High Street Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505
304-284-7540 | fax 304-284-4839
<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Lillian Woods, State Conservationist

NRCS field offices are located throughout West Virginia
Visit <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/> for addresses and phone numbers.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

[< Back to West Virginia News](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-2003
- Success Stories-2004
- Success Stories-2005

- Find a Service Center

From the Field

- [Little Kanawha RC&D](#)
- [Mountain RC&D](#)
- [Northern Panhandle RC&D](#)
- [Potomac Headwaters RC&D](#)

Little Kanawha RC&D

Submitted by Kurt Simon

Planning Efforts

Little Kanawha RC&D is in the final stages of completing its Area Plan. Originally, the area was formed out of public concern with the intent "to conserve and develop natural resources for the use and benefit of the general public".

The original Area Plan created in the early 1970's provides some useful insights into some of the needs and opportunities for the region that still exist today. More recently, the RC&D Council has identified current issues during local planning meetings, interviews, small group participation, and questionnaires.

Information gathered will establish a baseline for the Councils Area Plan of Work for the upcoming five years beginning in 2005. Questions asked during the period relate to what citizen's view as the pressing needs for the area and what opportunities exist to make our region a better place to live.



The original Little Kanawha RC&D Area was made up of five counties that included Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood. It was formed in October 1966. In 1973 efforts were made to expand the RC&D area, by adding Jackson, Pleasants and Tyler Counties. This expansion was approved by the United State's Department of Agriculture on April 23, 1974. Wetzel County was later added to make up the existing nine county region served by the Little Kanawha RC&D area.

Issues from the public based on needs and opportunities for the RC&D Area were categorized into four major topical areas. These areas include: Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development and Land Management. Public comments from each of these four categories were then formulated in to goals, objectives and strategies for projects to be worked on in the coming years.

Goals are defined as a broad end statement that, when attained collectively, will result in the achievement of the vision for the planning period.

Objectives are defined as specific, measurable achievements that when obtained result in the accomplishment of a goal.

Strategies are defined as the kinds of activities and individual projects that the RC&D Council envisions pursuing in order to accomplish objectives.

Mountain RC&D

Submitted by Mike Gasper



No-Till Orchardgrass Demonstration

The Council provided funding support to WV Conservation Agency (WVCA) Grassland Program to conduct an agricultural workshop at the Oak Hill Vocational School for the farming community. Seventy producers attended the No-Till Orchardgrass Demonstration which included lecture and field demonstrations of no-till seeding by NRCS Plant Material Center, hay storage advancements by Southern CD, and educational lectures by WVU Cooperative Extension Service (CES).

WVU Extension Dinner Meeting

Steve Bogash Regional Horticultural Specialist from Penn State University presented a marketing program that outlined opportunities for producers of specialty crops.

Mountain RC&D working with WVU CES conducted this three meeting series around the

RC&D area. The meetings were greatly appreciated and approximately 120 participants attended.

Foods_Processing Workshop

Mountain RC&D received a \$5,000 grant from WV Small Business Administration to help offset the cost of continuing education. The Foods_Processing Workshop was offer statewide to agribusiness individual help to keep current food processing procedures.



Berwind Vol. Fire Dept. Workshop

Mountain RC&D provided fund to Berwind and surrounding area fire departments for a continuing education class on proper containment of hazardous materials.

Wild and Wonderful Advertisement

Mountain RC&D supported Agritourism businesses in the Braxton County area with the advertising in the WV Wild and Wonderful magazine. The RC&D Council received a \$2,400 grant from WV Department Tourism to assist with this project. Media distribution was 360,000 copies.



Charlotte Christmas Show

Mountain RC&D working with WV Dept of Ag , and WV Dept Tourism sponsored some 50 WV Agritourism Businesses to supply produces to the Charlotte, NC annual products show. Over 100,000 buyers attended this annual event which WV producers sold over \$40,000 in direct sale with an additional \$20,000 in follow up orders. This project was a huge success not only for home produced products but for West Virginia.



Fairdale Elementary

Mountain RC&D provide financial assistance to this parent-teacher organization (PTO) to acquire and install new play ground equipment for their students. Total cost of the project was over \$60,000. This PTO showed us all how to get the job done.

Neotropical Birding Festival

Mountain RC&D provided assistance to Fayette County Commission with financial management on this fledgling festival in this it's second year. The festival is an outgrowth of the Appalachian Regional Commission's efforts to promote sustainable

tourism growth in the region. Promoters were excited about the 300 percent increase in this year's participation figures.

WV Specialty Foods Co-Op

Mountain RC&D partnered with WV Specialty Foods Co-Op and WV Dept of Ag on this year annual conference held at the Tamarack Center. The conference brought speakers together that relayed training materials on marketing. A professional photo opportunity was also available for member's product lines. WV Small Business Work Force provided a grant of \$2,100 towards the conference.

Foods Recall and Bioterrorism Workshop

WV Dept of Ag, WV Small Business Administration, and Mountain RC&D sponsored a continuing education workshop for producers of WV food products. The workshop focused on recall procedures for food contamination and consumer safety.

Northern Panhandle RC&D

Submitted by Jim Ali

WV Hosts 2005 Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association Conference

The 2005 Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association Annual Conference was held in Wheeling, WV at Oglebay Park. Over 100 RC&D Representatives from six states attended the 2 ½ day session. Guests at the Conference included Sharon Ruggi, President of the National RC&D Association, Gerald Willis, Special Assistant to the Chief, NRCS, and Lillian Woods, WV State Conservationist. Several RC&D Program Managers also attended. Program emphasis at this year's conference was providing training to RC&D Council Members. An optional evening visit to the newly completed Cabela's Retail store was a popular function.

During the Mid-Atlantic business meeting, Howard Coffield from the Northern Panhandle RC&D Council was elected President of the Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association. The Mid-Atlantic Conference rotates among the six member states. The 2006 meeting

will be held in the state of New York. During the Awards Diner Awards were presented to a RC&D Council, a RC&D Council Member, and RC&D Coordinator.



Howard Coffield Sharon Ruggi Gerald Willis



Awards Dinner

Potomac Headwaters RC&D

Submitted by Roger Boyers



Agriculture was a primary effort of the Council. Work continues in Jefferson County – with the launching of a major Economic and Marketing Feasibility study for locally based value-added products. The Jefferson County Development Authority was supported as it developed an [Ag Development Officer Position](#). Both projects were fully supported by the County Commission. Other RC&D-wide efforts included farmer-producer meetings, farmland protection, and ag tourism and educational tours.

Tourism continued to be important. The Council assisted with recruitment of volunteer-workers for the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA). AFHA has centered on achieving Congressional designation as a National Heritage Tourism Area. AFHA includes West Virginia counties in and outside the PH RC&D and in Maryland. A long-term planning and feasibility study of the Allegheny Highland Trails network in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia has begun. Other work included establishment of information kiosks along the American Discovery Trail at Dolly Sods and Greenland Gap (Grant Co.), Fort Ashby (Mineral Co.), Paw Paw (Morgan Co.) and Harpers Ferry (Jefferson Co.).

Park planning and development work included Bayard Veteran's Memorial Park (Grant Co.), Tuscarora Creek Linear Park (Martinsburg), Barnum Rail Trail, Keyser's Mill Meadow Park, and Swisher Trail and Natural Ares (Mineral Co.), Brighton and Baker Parks (Hardy Co.), Warm Springs Middle School Trail and Paw Paw Town Park (Morgan Co.), and Riverside Park (Pendleton Co.). An EP Trails Coalition has been initiated for Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties.

The long standing **Dry Hydrant Installation Program** was wrapped up mid-year, upon the retirement of the program coordinator. But, the final report's ink had hardly dried, when the WV Division of Forestry offered an opportunity for the Council to administer a state-wide program. The two-year project will commence in the fall and will focus on providing fire protection for the urban-forest interface. Simultaneously the US Forest Service approached the Council to ask for help in developing internet-based safety training for loggers, sawyers, and the value-added forest product industry. That project will be unfolding in the early part of FY-2005.

Council activity in the **water quality** arena centered around two existing and one new project. The Berkeley Co. Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) was supported by grant administration and contract work to prepare the SWAP report. A final product – a public education booklet – is awaiting final approval and funds for printing and distribution. The Potomac River Tributary Strategy was coordinated by the WV State Division of Environmental Protection. The Council worked on the plan over a 15-month period in a variety of ways, including report editing, mailings and educational support for local units of government. Finally, the Council moved at its Annual Meeting to support staff work in the development of remediation plans for Acid Mine Drainage in Grant and Mineral Counties.

A new endeavor of the Council was administrative support of **land use planning**. The Council made available matching funds and grant writing to two counties for reviews and rewrites of their county comprehensive plans. The Council also supported several educational workshops and tours for Concord College. Teachers taking continuing education geography courses visited the Eastern Panhandle to experience first hand what double digit growth looks like.

Finally, **floodings problems** still remain important. Three projects are taking shape – two in Grant County and one in Berkeley County. More partners are needed as each of these will be long term projects, with no easy or cheap fixes in sight.

[**< Back to West Virginia News**](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-2003
- Success Stories-2004
- Success Stories-2005
- Find a Service Center

Knapps Creek Watershed Project 24

Knapps Creek has had long term channel stability and stream bank erosion problems. The NRCS, along with several partners, recently completed the first demonstration phase of the first stream restoration project of its kind in West Virginia. The project provides a stable channel, eliminates or reduces the damage to and loss of farmland caused by stream bank erosion and sedimentation, improves aquatic habitat, and provides a cleaner source of drinking water for Marlinton.

Channel improvements include construction of meanders, riffles, pools, and riparian wetlands in about a half mile of stream. Banks are protected with rock vanes, root wads, transplanted trees, fiber matting, seeding, and mulching.

Partners in the project who have signed the Memorandum of Understanding include the WV Conservation Agency, the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, the US Forest Service, and the Canaan Valley Institute. Other partners who have provided technical assistance and grant money are WV Department of Environmental Protection and US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Woody vegetation was transplanted. Note root wads in right foreground (Photo A Feher)

Before, during, and after photos. Note the foot bridge in photos.



May 10,
2004.



July 20, 2004
installing rock vanes.



September 22

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)

[▲ Back to Top](#)

[West Virginia NRCS Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [NRCS](#) | [USDA](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-
2003
- Success Stories-
2004
- Success Stories-
2005
- Find a Service Center

Bermudagrass Scores Touchdown

Submitted by Alan Boone, District Conservationist, Hamlin Service Center

The Chapmanville High School football field, located in Logan County, was covered by dead or dying sod. Numerous bare spots riddled the playing field. It was not the green, lush turf that the school or community wanted. Thanks to the efforts of school personnel, the coaching staff, the athletic association and the NRCS, the field was improved.

The Plant Materials Center provided Quickstand Bermudagrass sprigs and sprig planter. This service was made available as a part of our technical assistance to the Guyan Conservation District. The District provided money to help with the cost of fertilizer. Local efforts were well coordinated by David Dean, a member of the coaching staff at Chapmanville High School. Earl Hager, Guyan Conservation District Supervisor for Logan County, was also instrumental in the projects success.

Two weeks prior to planting, the field was sprayed with the herbicide Roundup to kill the existing vegetation which would compete with the new planting. The field was 'sprigged' on May 2, 2003. Fifty bushels of Bermudagrass sprigs were planted on the field. The large farm tractor needed to pull the planter was provided by Dave Cyfers, a science teacher at the school. A cultipacker, furnished by Barker's Dairy, was run over the new planting, insuring adequate plant to soil contact. The day after the planting, the Chapmanville Volunteer Fire Department thoroughly soaked the field by pumping thousands of gallons of water from the Guyandotte River. Ammonium nitrate was applied according to soil test the first week of August.

Four weeks later, it was evident the planting was a success. The playing field was covered with a soft, green carpet of Bermudagrass. The athletic field was heavily used during the 2004 season and but held up better than other ground covers.

Unfortunately, the athletic field will soon be replaced by a new school building.



Before the project



The field was 'sprigged' on
May 2, 2003.



The large farm tractor needed
to pull the sprig planter was
provided by a science teacher
at the school.



The planting was a success.



The playing field was covered
with a soft, green carpet of
Bermudagrass.



Quickstand is thick and dense
enough to support heavy play
without overseeding.

Quickstand is a newer strain of Bermuda that features winter hardiness, quick spring green-up, and safety (compared to clumpy grass). This cultivar has proven to be incredibly cold hardy. It not only survives, but thrives at 3000 feet in elevation in West Virginia. Quickstand establishes rapidly (hence its name). Quickstand is thick and dense enough to support heavy play without overseeding. If damage occurs in the spring, it recovers on its own during the heat of summer—it can grow actively during the summer months when limited rainfall and high temperatures restricts the growth of traditional cool-season grasses.

However, like most bermudagrasses, Quickstand does not produce viable seed. Thus, new stands must be established by transplanting live plants through a process called "sprigging". Sprigging is an intensive process that requires specialized equipment which is not readily available. The Anderson Plant Materials Center recognized that equipment unavailability was a problem so purchased a no-till sprig planter for use in establishing demonstration plantings.

Interest in use of bermudagrass as forage to alleviate the "mid-summer slump" has

increased dramatically within the Center's service area.

The NRCS (then Soil Conservation Service [SCS]), Alderson Plant Materials Center (then Quicksand Plant Materials Center) in conjunction with the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service announced the naming and release of 'Quickstand' bermudagrass in 1992.

[**< Back to News and Views Home**](#)

[!\[\]\(6605b201d6f14d9b3bcb8ab5f274d107_img.jpg\) Back to Top](#)

[West Virginia NRCS Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [NRCS](#) | [USDA](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-
2003
- Success Stories-
2004
- Success Stories-
2005
- Find a Service Center

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the West Virginia CSP watersheds

On Nov. 1, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced efforts to enhance the quality of the Ohio River Basin by naming the 2005 watersheds for Ohio and West Virginia that are eligible for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). "This program improves the Ohio River Basin by rewarding farmers and ranchers who have built a foundation of natural resource conservation and to maintain those benefits to the public for generations to come" said Veneman.

After several stops in Ohio, Secretary Veneman concluded her tour in Marietta, Ohio, where she announced both the Ohio and West Virginia CSP watersheds to an audience of West Virginia and Ohio agency personnel, WVACD representatives, farmers, and others. NRCS Chief Bruce Knight accompanied Secretary Veneman. The Marietta Nursery, operated by ODNR's Division of Forestry, hosted the event.

The announcement includes three watersheds in West Virginia: the 29,973 acres Twelvepole watershed with 200 farms, the 106,565 acre Elk watershed with 106,565 farms, and the 397,939 Middle Island watershed with 2,441 farms.



Map of CSP watersheds in OH and WV



Secretary Ann Veneman, NRCS chief Bruce Knight, and WV State Conservationist Lillian Woods before the announcement.



Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman
announces the WV CSP watersheds for 2005



West Virginia NRCS employees attending the
CSP announcement at the Marietta Ohio State
Nursery (Left to right: front row Harry Huff,
Bruce Knight, Ann Veneman, Lillian Woods.
Back row: Rick Patterson, Carrie Ketterman,
Delmas Carr, Eugene Friend, and Rick Heaslip.

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)

[Back to Top](#)

[West Virginia NRCS Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [NRCS](#) | [USDA](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories- 2003
- Success Stories- 2004
- Success Stories- 2005

- Find a Service Center

West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference

The theme of the 2004 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference was *West Virginia Waters "Natures Gift."* The conference included a series of workshops relating to water. "The watershed protection program is one of those silent points of excellence in conservation," said Bruce Knight, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who was the event's opening speaker. "It's about saving lives and saving property and soil, but it's probably one of our least appreciated programs." Nationally, Knight said, the 2,000 dams made possible through the NRCS program save \$1.5 billion annually in property losses, and keep an estimated 47 million tons of soil on farms and forests and out of rivers, lakes and bays.

The Conference was held October 26 thru 28th at the Charleston Marriott Town Center.

Congratulations to Warren & Reva Mickey for winning the 2004 Conservation Farm of the Year award. They represented the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and are the owners and operators of the Cloverdale-Spring Meadow Farm in Charles Town, WV.



Lillian Woods introduced Chief
 Bruce Knight, an opening
 speaker.



Wendy Noll at the display area.



Greg Stone lead the Memorial
 Service.



Noah Mullins was honored at the WVACD Supervisor Breakfast Business meeting.

Pat Bowen introduced Mark Kieser.

Rick Heaslip talks about CSP.



Angela Jessup talks about stream restoration.



Lillian Woods, Reva and Warren Mickey (Conservation Farm winners), Joe Gumm, and Gus R. Douglass at the Grand Banquet.

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-2003
- Success Stories-2004
- Success Stories-2005

- Find a Service Center

Jim Piper Retires

Jim Piper recently retired after over 33 years of service. From December 1999 to October 2004 he was the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and the Farm Bill in the West Virginia State Office in Morgantown. A dinner to honor Jim was held on November 20, 2004.



Jim and his grandson, Jett, visit with Mike Gasper, Alex and Judy Topalanchik.



Rick Heaslip served as master of ceremonies.



Joe Gumm, former WVACD President presented Jim with a West Virginia Clock.



Peg Reese presents Jim with a plaque from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Peg also put together photo posters and a memory book.



Through out the evening, many expressed their thanks to Jim for over 33 years of service to the NRCS including Barbara Broxterman, Rebecca MacLeod, Lillian Woods, and Steve Carpenter.



Apparel and the famous chicken were included in humorous presentations.

Jim was honored in song.

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)

[▲ Back to Top](#)

[West Virginia NRCS Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [NRCS](#) | [USDA](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-2003
- Success Stories-2004
- Success Stories-2005
- Find a Service Center

Kimball African American WWI Memorial

The McDowell County coal mines, known for high quality coal, employed a variety of nationalities. In the early 1900's most of the black miners employed in the United States worked in southern West Virginia. Blacks held the same economic status as whites and made the same amount of money for the same work—something unique for the time.

1500 of these miners left McDowell County to serve in World War I. The first memorial to honor these and all black World War I soldiers was completed and dedicated in 1928 in Kimball. Besides being a memorial, the building also served as the cultural and social center for all races until the late 1970's.

The once prosperous town abandoned the building because maintenance work became too expensive for the towns declining population. A 1991 fire left the memorial with the appearance of a bombed out ruin—only the exterior shell was left. But a group of residents, including Lorenzo Henderson, worked to rebuild the memorial. The Mountain RC&D provided funding, time, guidance, chaired meetings, and assisted in obtaining grants.

The restored memorial will provided the community with a gathering place and is expected to bring tourism to the now economically depressed area. It is part of the West Virginia Coal Heritage Trail in and will have displays and visitor services.



The building is in the classical style.



The restored building has an auditorium and conference rooms.



The windows are arched industrial style.



An elevator was added to make the building accessible.

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-
2003
- Success Stories-
2004
- Success Stories-
2005
- Find a Service Center

Bits and Pieces

Support the State Soil Monolith Exhibit

The WV Association of Professional Soil Scientists needs our help regarding the support of the state soil monolith exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Each state has been requested to raise \$10,000 for the Smithsonian display. If you would like to help ensure West Virginia's place in this exhibit, please contact Steve Carpenter, NRCS State Soil Scientist, at (304) 284-7540, extension 7585, for details.

Check out the NRCS **Soils** web site. "**Helping People Understand Soils**" at <http://soils.usda.gov/>

Soils is part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, an effort of Federal and State agencies, universities, and professional societies to deliver scientifically based soil information.

Meet your new Public Affairs Specialist

Carol Lagodich transferred from USDA State and Private Forestry in Durham NH where she was the Visual Information Specialist. Previous Forest Service positions include resources and recreation in Montana, fisheries biologist in Washington, GIS in Oregon, and various forestry technician jobs in Idaho. She is an Information Officer and took assignments with incident management teams--usually forest fire related.

She has a BS in Science (biology emphasis) from Southern Oregon State College, a MS in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University, and a certificate in Electronic Publishing from the University of Oregon.



Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-
2003
- Success Stories-
2004
- Success Stories-
2005

- Find a Service Center

Digital Photo Tip.

Microsoft Photo Editor is a basic imaged editing program that is part of Office Tools. MS Photo Editor is easy to use and is handy for basic photo and image manipulation tasks such as resizing and lowering the resolution of digital photos.

Resize an Image - you can resize an image BUT REMEMBER, if you have a small image and you want to resize larger, the image may become pixelated or distorted because the resolution is too low to allow for resize. It's much better to have a large image that you resize smaller.

1. Open Microsoft Photo Editor

2. From the File menu (or open icon), choose Open. Navigate to where you have your photos or images stored. Click on the one you want to open.

3. From the Image menu, choose Resize

1. You can enter width & height numbers or you can use percentages to resize. You can also select which unit of measurement to use - inches, centimeters or pixels.

2. Do NOT check Allow distortion unless that is what you want. If you leave it blank, you can type in a number in the width and have it auto calculate what the height should be without distorting the image.

Change the Resolution of an Image - Resolution is the number of pixels in an image. A higher number correlated to a higher quality of

image. Sometimes you want to decrease the resolution of an image to lower the file size. REMEMBER, you can decrease the number of pixels in an image but you can't increase pixels without distortion or pixelation.

1. Open Microsoft Photo Editor
2. From the File menu (or open icon), choose Open. Navigate to where you have your photos or images stored. Click on the one you want to open.
3. From the File menu, choose Properties
4. Resolution will be listed. If it says 300, you can drop that to 150 and still print the photo (on a printer, 300 is needed for press products). If you drop the resolution to 72, this photo can be used to display on monitor or projector in PowerPoint or on the web. The photo will not print very sharp at this resolution.

Important Note: You must always save the file with a new name. If you overwrite the original file you can never recover it to the original condition.



Click on above picture to see a screen shot of the Photo Editor screen.

To learn more about Photo Editor, check out: http://groups.ucanr.org/help/File_Library/Microsoft_Photo_Editor.htm
<http://ict.cas.psu.edu/Training/HowTo/MSPhotoEditor/UseMSPhotoEditor.htm>

Search

for

News

- National NRCS News
- News Releases
- Success Stories-2003
- Success Stories-2004
- Success Stories-2005

- Find a Service Center

Personnel News

Submitted by Karen Fitchett
Personnel Changes from February 22 – November 10, 2004

Name Change		To:
Sara Jones		Sarah Fitzwater
Title Change		To:
Vickie Scott		Admin. Off Asst.
John Brewster		Admin Off Asst
Work Schedules Change		
Kathy Allen (P/T)		Philippi Area Office
Sigrid Teets (P/T)		Philippi Field Office

Promotions (competitive)	From	To:
Jared Beard	Martinsburg SSO	Moorefield WQO
Linda Cupp		ITC Staff
Valarie Hannon	Cross Lanes	Pt. Pleasant Dist Cons
Karen Fitchett		HR Staff

Students made Permanent		
Karrie Ketterman	Soil Conservationist	Parkersburg FO

Sarah Fitzwater	Soil Conservationist	Keyser FO
Dustin Adkins	Soil Conservationist	Union FO

New Employees/Reinstatements

Ray Cragar	Grassland Specialist	Philippi Area Office
Tee J Burr	Engineer	TechnologyStaff
Tom Tomasco	Engineer	Technology Staff
Gary Bush (CI)	Soil Con Tech	Glenville FO
Brandon Duckworth (CI)	Soil Con Tech	Hamlin FO
Sarah Shelton (CI)	Soil Con Tech	Petersburg FO
Penny Sheeler	Secretary	State Office
Sue Covell	Clerk Typist	Waverly RC&D
Mary Morris	Clerk Typist	Potomac Headwaters RC&D

Reassignments - (Some reassignments are in conjunction with career ladder promotions)

Mark Van Lear	Soil Scientist	Soil Survey Staff
Peg Reese	Pub Affairs Spec	Soil Conservationist
Rebecca Flanagan	Union	Wheeling FO
Kurt Simon	OH – NRCS	Waverly RC&D
Angela Jessup	Engineer	Canaan Valley Institute
Carol Lagodich	Public Affairs Spec.	State Office
Amy Bolyard	Contract Specialist	Admin. Serv.
Ben Collier	Summersville	Gassaway
Jared Nestor	Gassaway	Glenville
Jason Teets	Elkins	Philippi
Matt Murphy	Glennville	Gassaway

Randy Lester	Soil Con	Plant Material Center, Asst. Mgr PMC
--------------	----------	---

Transfers Outs:

Jay Hanna	Dept. Of Energy
Bob Dobos	Lincoln Nebraska
Noah Mullins	NRCS-Virginia
Tina Daugherty	Bur. Of Public Debt

Resignations

Lucinda Hines	Martinsburg FO
Carla Mullins	
Teresa Huffman	Summersville MAP Unit

Retirements:

Jim Piper	State Office
Pat Luke	Ranson FO

Awards

Special Act

Andrick, Herbert
 Brewster, John P
 Chase, Deborah Lea
 Cherefko, Chad
 Cox, John
 Doerr, C Diana
 Haid Jr, Kenneth

Harris, Raymond A
Harris, Raymond A
Lantz, Jeanette H
Nestor, Jared Nathaniel
Noll, Wendy J
O'Neill, Eileen
Prescott, Timothy

Spot Awards

John Brewster

< **Back to News and Views Home**



Search

for

Up Coming Events

Submitted by Dianna Doerr

Date	Meeting	Location
12/6/04	EQIP Training	
12/8/04	WV State Soil Sciences/MO13 Meeting	Morgantown
12/9/04	West Area Awards Meeting	TBA
12/13-17/04	National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees Training Conference	California
12/13/04	SCIMS Training	Mt. Clare
12/14/04	East Area Awards Meeting (Tentative)	TBA
12/16/04	South Area Awards Meeting	TBA
1/10-11/05	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts	Morgantown
1/12/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Morgantown
1/20/05	State Technical Committee Meeting	Morgantown
3/22-24/05	Appalachia Grazing Conference	Morgantown
4/11-12/05	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts	Mineral Wells
4/13/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Mineral Wells
7/11-12/05	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts	Blackwater Falls
7/13/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Blackwater Falls
October 2005	WV Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting	Charleston

[< Back to News and Views Home](#)